
Name of Organization: Save The Prairie Society

Type of Organization: Other

Contact Information: Ms. Valerie Spale
Executive Director
10327 Elizabeth Street
Westchester IL 60154

Phone: (708) 865 - 8736 **Extension:** N/A

Fax: (708) 865 - 0170

E-Mail: vdf19@idt.net

Project Title: Mission Oak Rescue

Project Category: Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Rest

Rank by Organization (if applicable): 0

Total Funding Requested (\$): 26,000 **Project Duration:** 1.5 Years

Abstract:

In areas where restoration ecology is absent, oak habitat is invaded by understory brush and non-native plants, and oak reproduction cannot occur. Mission Oak Rescue will document the plight of oak trees and their habitats on public and private lands in the Chicago Region and produce a video for public education that establishes the impact of traditional landscaping, hydrological changes and development on oak survival. Our web site (www.SaveThePrairieSociety.org) will feature alternative landscaping choices for public and private landowners and documentation for improving oak habitat. At the Wolf Road Prairie, a pilot savanna recovery and oak reproduction project has been established on buffer to the nature preserve. Oak propagation to preserve native gene pools will occur at the Wolf Road Prairie Nature Center greenhouse.

Geographic Areas Affected by the Project

States:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> New York
<input type="checkbox"/> Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania
<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin
<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/> Ohio

Lakes:

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie
<input type="checkbox"/> Huron	<input type="checkbox"/> Ontario
<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> All Lakes

Geographic Initiatives:

☒ Greater Chicago ☐ NE Ohio ☐ NW Indiana ☐ SE Michigan ☐ Lake St. Clair

Primary Affected Area of Concern: Not Applicable

Other Affected Areas of Concern:

For Habitat Projects Only:

Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area: Chicago Wilderness

Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:

Problem Statement:

The oak savannas and oak openings of the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Region are ranked G-1 -- critically imperiled globally. These ecosystems represent a major component of pre-settlement natural history.

Lack of ecological management on public lands is resulting in oak loss and degradation of resource rich ecosystems. As oak habitat is invaded by understory brush and non-native plants, oak reproduction cannot occur. On private lands, oaks are adversely impacted by traditional landscaping, hydrological changes and tree cutting for development. The viability of remaining oaks, most of vintage age, and the decline in their numbers raises concerns about the survival of these majestic trees.

Unless this trend is reversed, the prospect of an oakless landscape faces future generations. Without healthy oak populations, birds -- like the warblers, animals and insects dependent upon them for lifecycles will also be lost.

Proposed Work Outcome:

The purpose of Mission Oak Rescue is to investigate and document the plight of oak trees and their habitat in the Chicago Wilderness region, document successful oak restoration projects and benefits, and develop educational materials in print, video and on the Internet for distribution to decision makers, private and governmental landowners, educators, natural areas experts, landscaping professionals and the general public. Through the distribution of habitat information, oak survival programs and community outreach, we will develop a strategy and atmosphere to support the preservation and regeneration of native oaks.

Project Milestones:**Dates:**

Interview experts and assemble rationale	04/2001
Establish oak rescue field station--WRP	09/2000
Build Partnerships CW members	06/2001
Produce Oak Rescue Video	09/2001
Design Oak Rescue Web Site	06/2001
Publish and Distribute Oak Rescue Data	09/2001
Pre-Plan Oak Rescue Conference	12/2001
Project End	01/2002

☐ Project Addresses Environmental Justice

If So, Description of How:

☒ Project Addresses Education/Outreach

If So, Description of How:

Education Outreach will involve:

1. Developing a dialogue with municipalities and developers to preserve oaks in communities and in proposed building projects.
2. Creating an Oak Rescue education packet, classroom programs and field trips to restoration sites.
3. Inviting media coverage of Mission Oak Rescue events featuring school participation, community field trips and educational programs.
4. Pre-planning Oak Rescue conference for landowners, landscapers, local nature centers, teachers, students and the general public in the Chicago Wilderness area.
5. Establishing greenhouse facility and oak regeneration exhibits.
6. Preparing video and Internet resources on Mission Oak Rescue.

Project Budget:

	Federal Share Requested (\$)	Applicant's Share (\$)
Personnel:	0	10,000
Fringe:	0	0
Travel:	0	0
Equipment:	3,000	0
Supplies:	3,000	0
Contracts:	18,500	15,000
Construction:	1,000	5,000
Other:	500	0
Total Direct Costs:	26,000	30,000
Indirect Costs:	0	0
Total:	26,000	30,000
Projected Income:	0	0

Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):

Midwest SOARRING -- donation of greenhouse and construction
Video Documentation Fund -- video archival footage of Chicago Wilderness Area Oak Rescue projects and studio rental
Applied Computing Solutions -- internet server space
Westchester Historical Society -- Nature Center Facility

Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:

Dr. Darrel Murray, University of Illinois in Chicago -- plant propagation
Save the Prairie Society is a member of Chicago Wilderness
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Chicago Academy of Sciences
Brookfield Zoo
Area Schools
Area Scout Groups and Service Organizations
Living Prairie League
International Oak Society
Salt Creek Greenway Association
Pizzo and Associates and Conservation Design Firm, Inc.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Lower DesPlaines Ecosystem Partnership
Urban Resources Partnership in Chicago
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service